

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: KAUNDA CLAIMS SUCCESS IN WINNING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION
OF PATRIOTIC FRONT

REF: (A) LAGOS 503, (B) ACCRA 430, (C) MONROVIA 540

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN LIBREVILLE AND CONAKRY AND FONMIN
MWALE AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM WEST AFRICA MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS
SUGGESTING ZAMBIA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING SUPPORT
FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. WHILE PARTIALLY
TRUE, THESE STATEMENTS DO NOT REFLECT THE LUKEWARM BACKING OF
THE FRONTLINE DECISION BY THE NIGERIANS AND GHANAIS AND THE
OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION BY TOLBERT OF LIBERIA. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS IN LIBREVILLE JAN 22 EN ROUTE TO
LUSAKA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THERE WAS WIDESPREAD AND TOTAL
SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ZAMBIA TIMES REPORTER TRAVELING
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WITH THE PRESIDENT INTERPRETED THIS AS INDICATION THAT KAUNDA
HAD ACCOMPLISHED THE DIPLOMATIC FEAT OF "WINNING THE UNFLINCHING
SUPPORT OF NIGERIA, GHANA, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA FOR
THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT." KAUNDA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE LIBREVILLE PRESS THAT,
IF AFRICA WANTED TO SEE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE IN RHODESIA,
THE RIGHT FORCES MUST BE SUPPORTED. THE RIGHT FORCES WERE

REPRESENTED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, OTHERS WOULD ONLY FORM A PUPPET GOVERNMENT. THESE OTHERS, SAID KAUNDA, MAY PRODUCE A BLACK PRIME MINISTER, BUT "I AM AFRAID HE WOULD ONLY HAVE A NOSE AS FLAT AS MINE BUT WITH A WHITE BRAIN."

2. REPORTING ON THE FREETOWN STOP, THE TIMES REPORTER QUOTES PRESIDENT STEVENS AS AFFIRMING SIERRA LEONE'S SUPPORT FOR THE POSITIVE LINE TAKEN BY THE FRONTLINE STATES. THIS POSITIVE LINE, SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WOULD AVOID AN ANGOLA SITUATION.

3. FONMIN MWALE, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED KAUNDA ON MOST OF HIS WEST AFRICA TOUR, TOLD THE PRESS ON HIS RETURN TO LUSAKA THAT KAUNDA HAD SUCCEEDED IN "OBTAINING AN EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT ON THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE FRONTLINE STATES TO RENDER FULL SUPPORT TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." HE QUALIFIED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING, "THE FRONTLINE RECOGNITION WAS NOT GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS BUT TO THE FIGHTING CADRES OF ZAPU AND ZANU AND THAT RECOGNITION WAS INTENDED TO GIVE IMPETUS TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE."

4. A JOINT GUINEA/ZAMBIA COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IN LUSAKA INDICATES TOURE HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE TOURE AND KAUNDA "APPROVED THE CREATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND HAD DECIDED TO GIVE DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, MORAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT TO IT."

COMMENT: CLEARLY KAUNDA HAD SOME SUCCESS IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. BUT, AS INDICATED IN REFTELS, THIS SUPPORT WAS LESS THAN TOTAL FROM NIGERIA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GHANA AND COMPLETELY LACKING IN LIBERIA. NIGERIA'S FAILURE TO ENDORSE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (REFTEL A), COULD PROVE SERIOUS. ITS VIEWS CARRY WEIGHT IN OAU COUNCILS AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR SUPPORTING THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST CAUSE IN A MATERIAL WAY ARE FACTS THAT CANNOT BE LIGHTLY REGARDED. TOLBERT'S COMMENTS (REFTEL C) INDICATE ZAMBIA AND THE OTHER FRONTLINE STATES WILL HAVE TO DO SOME SERIOUS LOBBYING IF THEY ARE TO GET OAU ENDORSEMENT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THE OAU LIBERATION MEETING THIS WEEKEND. MWALE'S EMPHASIS ON FRONTLINE SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY CADRE OF ZANU AND ZAPU AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN EFFORT TO ANSWER CRITICS WHO CHARGE THAT, IN BACKING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE FRONTLINE STATES ARE TRYING TO DICTATE NOT ONLY TO THE ZIMBABWEANS BUT ALSO TO THE OAU WHO WILL COME TO POWER IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. IN SPITE OF THE INITIAL RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SOME OAU MEMBERS TO RATIFY AUTOMATICALLY THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, A SOLID FRONT BY MACHEL, NYERERE AND KAUNDA AT THE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD BE HARD FOR OTHER OAU MEMBERS TO RESIST. LOW

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